



SOUTHEAST NEWS

December 2010 - January 2011

Southeast Elementary School, 134 Warrenville Rd., Mansfield Center, CT 06250 423-1611

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As this year comes to a close, I wanted to say thank you for your enormous support and encouragement. I feel so fortunate to be part of a community that works together to provide enrichment and support to all of our children. Together everyone does achieve more. I am looking forward to our continued partnership in making Southeast School a place where all children meet with success.



Wishing you a wonderful holiday season filled with happiness, lots of love and good health.

See you next year!

Fondly,
Norma Fisher-Doiron



Calling All Kindergarteners!

Once again it is time to schedule our Kindergarten Registration. We are asking your help in identifying all children who will be eligible to attend kindergarten for the 2011-2012 school year.

If you have a child or know of a child who will be five years old on or before January 1, 2012, please contact the school office at 423-1611. We are gathering all names and addresses in order to send out invitations to the activities necessary to register your child.

Please feel free to call the above telephone number with any questions you may have.

Best Wishes to Vicki Daniels, Southeast School Nurse

Announcing her retirement this year is Vicki Daniels, who has been with us for the past 13 years. Her last day will be December 23rd, 2010.

In retirement, Mrs. Daniels plans to do some traveling with her husband, spend more time with her grandchildren, and enjoy more family time at the Cape.

Please join us in thanking Vicki for her outstanding service to the Southeast community and in wishing her well as she prepares for retirement. We will miss her very much!



Calendar of Events

December

- 12/23..... **FULL DAY OF SCHOOL**
2:15-3:30 4th Gr. Author's Tea
- 12/24 to 12/31..... **NO SCHOOL** Winter Vacation
- 12/25..... Christmas Day



January

- 1/01..... **NO SCHOOL** New Year's Day
- 1/03..... 7:00 PTO Meeting
- 1/13..... Gr. 3 & 4 Field trip to Hartford Symphony
- 1/17..... **NO SCHOOL**
Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday
- 1/19..... 3:30-5:00 Green Thumbs Club
- 1/20..... 7:30 Board of Education Meeting
at Goodwin School
- 1/26..... Third Grade Science Day with Sue Harrington
- 1/27..... 7:30 Board of Education Meeting
at Mansfield Middle School

Thanksgiving Feast

Southeast School celebrated a Thanksgiving Feast on Friday November 19th. All of the Southeast PreK to 4th Grade students and faculty sat together to enjoy a family style meal, which included turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, corn, rolls, applesauce, cranberry sauce, gingerbread and milk.



The dinner was part of a schoolwide assembly and the second grade began the festivities by singing Thanksgiving songs. To carry out the message of "thanksgiving", Spanish Teacher Diane Hutton and Enrichment Teacher Sue Irvine introduced a schoolwide community project "Reach for the Stars, Show Someone You Care". Both talked about the specifics of the project (i.e., take a star off the bulletin in the main hallway and bring back an item for a family in need) and explained that everyone was encouraged to show good character by helping those in need during the holidays.

We would like to thank the many parents and family members who volunteered to help set-up, serve the meal and clean up after our Thanksgiving Feast. Of course, this feast would not have been possible without the tireless hours spent cooking and baking by our kitchen staff. We send out a great big **THANK YOU** to Mrs. Maureen Gagne and Mrs. Michelle Rosado for a delicious meal!

Attendance Line/Nurse: 423-2793 Please call by 9:00 AM if your child will be absent or tardy



Exploring the Sea!

For four weeks in October and November, the enrichment room featured a salt water aquarium that became a home for new local sea animals each week. All K-4 classes visited the aquarium each week for hands-on lessons about all of the different creatures. Over the course of the program, we hosted echinoderms (sea stars, sea urchins and a sea cucumber), crustaceans (mud, shore and spider crabs, barnacles and a couple of shore shrimp), mollusks (periwinkles, slipper limpets, a mussel, a quahog, an oyster and an oyster drill), and fish (puffer fish, winter flounder, striped minnow, stickleback).



In their visits to the enrichment room, students learned fun facts about these animals pertaining to their movement, protection, and feeding. The younger grades learned the science skills of observation and categorization. The older grades focused on the concept of form and function with animals. They learned why the winter flounder has two eyes on the same side of her head. Students looked forward to the opportunity to touch many of the animals and observe sea life artifacts each week. Throughout the month, students wrote their observations about what they were learning in individualized packets. Each student was able to keep his or her packet after the last visit to share at home.

At the end of the four weeks, we were as sad as our students to see the sea creatures go. We received lots of positive feedback from students and teachers, and the students continue to show an increased interest and fascination with the sea life they studied.

~Miss Francisco, Miss Sunderland, Miss Veilleux and Miss Voloshin

WINTER WEATHER, DELAYED OPENINGS, EMERGENCY EARLY CLOSINGS

During the winter months, the possibility exists for storms that would require the Superintendent to order a delayed opening or emergency early closing.

90 Minute Delays:

- School will start at 10:30. (grades K-4)
- There is no before school child care available.
- Students should arrive no earlier than 10:15.
- AM PreK is cancelled.

Emergency Early Closings:

- Grades K-4 will dismiss at 12:45.
- AM PreK will stay until 12:45. Lunch will be provided.
- PM PreK is cancelled.
- After school child care is cancelled.

Just a reminder . . . It is the parent's responsibility to be aware of delayed openings, early closings or cancellations by listening to the radio or TV, or by signing up for QNotify messaging service. Please do not call the office to ask if we are having an early closing, as we need to keep our phone lines open for emergencies.

For more information about delays and emergency early closings, please log on to our website.

mansfieldct.org/schools/southeast



"Shine Your Smile Day" Rescheduled to Feb. 17th



We have invited Mobile Dentists/Smile Programs to bring it's on-site preventative dental services to our school because we know how important good oral health is to our children's overall general health. This is not a mandatory program.

A mini-dental office will be set up (at a location yet to be determined) and can provide *dental examinations, cleanings, fluoride treatments, x-rays and sealants (if necessary)* for children.

The Mobile Dentist/Smile Programs can provide these services to families who need financial assistance and it has *subsidized fees* for those who choose to pay for the preventative care. NO CHILD IS EVER TURNED AWAY FROM THE PROGRAM BECAUSE OF FINANCIAL NEED.

Learn more about this program by visiting its website: www.mobiledentists.com or contact the Health Room at 423-2793. Applications are available in the school office.



Star Students

In October, the Character Education Committee identified a goal of promoting positive behavior in the cafeteria. A community meeting process was established so that students could be included in making positive changes for Southeast. In classrooms, students were asked to brainstorm the lunchtime issues that needed to be improved. They were also asked to propose rules for the cafeteria. Next, students participated in a community meeting where they shared the ideas and discussed the rules. The students then voted to accept these rules.

As part of these new rules, a *Star Student* program was implemented. Staff members watch for students who are exhibiting exemplary behavior and leadership during lunch time. Star Students were selected for the month of November and have been able to "cut the lunch line" for the month of December. They were also invited to "eat at the Principal's Table" and have a special treat with Mrs. Fisher-Doiron.

We would like to congratulate the following Star Students for the month of November: George Wang (KBre), Avion Smith (KBro), Henry Christenson (KL), Caim Strickland (1H), Raghav Alhashmi Alamer (1R), Storm Ibarrondo (2d), Scott Hall (2S), Amy Wells (2M), Kiyana-Nicole Smith (3C), Cosette Choi (3H), Emily Jane Jajliardo (3K), Isabelle White (4S), Sona Fucimanova (4V), Nana Hansen (4W) and Tyler Harakaly (4W).

Notes to Teachers



When sending notes to teachers for parent pick-up, etc. please make sure that the paper you write the note on is large enough to be found by the teacher. Tiny scraps of paper are often overlooked or get lost.

For your convenience, we've put a generic form on our website. You may find it handy to use.

THE GIVING TREE

Every year we put up an evergreen tree in the office for children to decorate with mittens, scarves and hats for local families in need. Both adult and children sizes are needed. The items will be picked up by the Mansfield Services Youth Department for distribution. The children really enjoy seeing the tree fill up and knowing that they have helped keep someone else warm during these cold winter days.

We would like to thank all who donated items for the tree.



LOST & FOUND

Please ask your child to look through the Lost & Found box located in the Art's Wing. Writing your child's name inside jackets, lunch boxes, backpacks, etc. will help us return found items to their owners. Small items such as money or jewelry are held at the office.

Southeast Celebrated America Recycles Day

Waste Free Snacking

Southeast celebrated America Recycles Day with waste free snacks, which are snacks that do not produce any packaging waste that needs to be thrown away. Apples, bananas and oranges are examples of healthy, waste free snack choices because their peels can be composted. Other examples of waste free snacks are those that can be packed in a reusable container. Through this event, Southeast students and parents were encouraged to participate in America Recycles by bringing in waste free snacks.



Books and More Swap

Southeast students recycled old hard cover and paperback books, CDs, DVDs and VHS tapes. All students who brought in items were given the opportunity to exchange their recycled items for "new" books, discs, and/or tapes.

We wish you and your loved ones a very Happy Holiday, and a safe and healthy New Year.



PTO Corner:

PTO Officers 2010-2011

President.....Julie Brown
Vice-presidentAndrea Lennon
Secretary.....Mike Kelly
TreasurerKimberly Clark



The Fall Book Fair Raised \$500 for the Southeast Library!

Thanks to Kimberly Clark for organizing it and to all the volunteers who helped run the fair: Margherita Balsamo, Michele Boskovic, Patty Braithwaite, Meghan Connelly, Robin Grenier, Jessica Higham, Suzanne Kelly, Andrea Lennon, Sarah Mische, Mia Mitoma, Karen Molloy, Carissa Rutkauska, Kelly Shepard, Richelle Strimple, and Tia Willour.

PTO Family Game Night

Come have some fun and play away the winter blues! The PTO is in the process of organizing a Family Game Night this winter. Anyone who is interested in donating a game from home to the PTO, can leave it in the office ATTN: Andrea Lennon. Families are welcome to bring their own games from home to play that evening. Watch for flyers and the PTO Calendar to know the date/time of this family fun event.



PTO Meeting

Monday, Jan. 3rd 7:00 PM

All are welcome to attend

Childcare is available

(please call 423-1611 if you need childcare)

Leaving A Child Unsupervised in a Place of Public Accommodation



The Department of Children and Families would like to remind you that these actions are criminal violations and are referred to local police:

- Knowingly leaving a child unsupervised under age 12 in a place of public accommodation or motor vehicle for a period of time that presents substantial risk- class A misdemeanor; or
- Leaves the child unsupervised in a place of public accommodation that sells alcohol for consumption on premises- class D felony; or
- Leaves the child unsupervised in a place of public accommodation or a motor vehicle between 8 PM and 6 AM for a period of time- class C felony.

DRESSING FOR THE WEATHER



Now that the weather has changed and temperatures have dropped, dressing your child appropriately for the weather is important.

Weather permitting, students will be sent outdoors for recess. It is important for students to go outside and enjoy the fresh air,

social opportunity and exercise daily.

Please be sure your child wears a winter coat (light fleeces will not keep them warm in 30 degree weather), a hat and gloves or mittens. These will not be supplied by the office on a daily basis and children will not be permitted outside without proper outerwear.

When there is snow on the ground, they will need snow pants, boots and possibly a change of socks. If your child does not have winter garments, please contact the school nurse.

COLDER TEMPERATURES brings with it close quarters. Buildings are kept tight for energy efficiency. This combination contributes to the outbreak of diseases. The parents of each child are the best defense in helping to curb the spread of these conditions. Children should be observed for symptoms of illness and cared for accordingly. If you have any questions, please feel free to call your school nurse, 423-2793.

WHAT CAN YOU LEARN FROM A VAMPIRE?

The way a movie vampire covers his face with his cape is a good way to stop the spread of germs. It's called the Vampire Cough. Next time you cough or sneeze, cough into the inside bend of your elbow. If you cough into your hands, the germs from your mouth get spread around. Think about it - what was the last thing you touched with the inside of your elbow?



Reminder:

Call the school attendance line
423-2793 by 9:00 am
if your child will be absent.

GUIDELINES FOR WHEN TO KEEP A CHILD HOME



COLDS and runny noses are rampant in the winter months. If your child is sneezing and/or coughing excessively, they belong at home. Often times children will feel well when they get up but will become exhausted and not feeling well by mid morning due to excessive coughing or the stress of their illness. It is important to allow your child the extra rest they need to get well. Fluids help the immune system flush the body. Instruct your child on proper use of tissues for coughing, sneezing and nose blowing. Children should also be instructed on good hand washing techniques, as more colds are spread by contaminated hands than by infected droplets. Please remind children to keep their hands away from their faces.

FEVER The child's temperature should be normal for 24 hours before sending a child to school. If your child has a fever in the evening they should not come to school the next morning; fever may occur again in the afternoon.

VOMITING If your child vomits during the night, do not send him to school the next day. He should rest and be put on a liquid or soft diet.

DIARRHEA Loose stools have many causes. Children should not come to school until bowel movements have normal consistency. If diarrhea persists or is accompanied by other symptoms, consult your physician.

EARACHES Hearing is an important sense for learning. Earaches should never be ignored. Keep your child home and contact your doctor. If there is ear discharge, with or without pain, notify your doctor for evaluation.

STREP THROAT A child with a strep throat who has been on antibiotics for 24 hours may return to school.

CALL the attendance line by 9:00 am if your child will be absent. 423-2793

Any questions regarding return to school after illness, call the school nurse. 423-2793